

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Buttiker (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0176583 A1).

Applicant strongly asserts that Buttiker is directed to a process and to an end objective that are completely distinct from those to which the pending application is directed. In particular, while the pending claims of the present application are directed to a method for modifying online the validity of certificates by users who are registered members of a PKI-based authentication system, Buttiker pertains exclusively to a system, method and token for registering new users to a public key infrastructure (PKI) system.

Applicant respectfully asserts, in this regard, that a first deficiency in the teachings of Buttiker is the fact that Buttiker does not include any teachings or disclosure therein as to online modification by a user of the validity of a certificate. In particular, for example, while the Examiner cites Buttiker as disclosing "[the] handling, validating and revoking [of certificates]" at Figure 1 and at Paragraph 0047, these portions of Buttiker merely teach that registration authorities, in general and "normally", comprise "a key and certificate management unit" that "handl[es] and validat[es] certificates and keys" and that "issued and revoked certificates of the users ... are published in a directory to which ... users have access". These cited portions of Buttiker disclose nothing, however, about *online* modification of the validity of certificates by users through use of biometric information in correspondences from the registered user to the certification authority; rather, the cited portions merely restate generalities about the "normal" or conventional structure of PKI systems.

Additionally, while the Examiner cites paragraph 0054 of Buttiker as disclosing the generation by the certificate authority of a certificate validity modification message in response to a request to modify the certificate validity, Applicant strongly asserts that this cited portion of Buttiker pertains solely to the verification, registration and issuance of a certificate in response to a certification request from a user. In other words, Para. 0054 does not address the notion of modifying certificate validity (and certainly not the notion of *online* modification of certificate validity).

A second deficiency in the disclosure of Buttiker is its failure to teach or disclose a method for modifying validity of a certificate by registered members of a PKI-based authentication system. Rather, Buttiker pertains solely to method for registering new users

to a PKI system. This is evidenced in Buttiker, for example, in the claims of Buttiker which are directed to "*registering users*" and at paragraph 0047 which states that, "*the inventive token is designed for registering users at an authority of a [PKI] which normally comprises a registration authority, in charge of registering new users of the [PKI].*" To the contrary, the pending claims expressly pertain to methods for modifying validity of a certificate by users who are registered in a PKI-based authentication system. In particular, for example, pending independent claim 1 expressly includes the phrase, "*under the condition that [the user] is registered as a member in the authentication system*".

As such, because Buttiker fails to disclose a method for modifying the validity of a certificate by a user online, and because Buttiker further fails to disclose a method for use by registered members of a PKI-based authentication system, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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